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SUBJECT: GOT Turns Down DVC Proposal; Suggests a TIFA Meeting Instead

1. On May 20, the Embassy received a response to our diplomatic note proposing a digital video conference (DVC) between U.S. and Turkish experts on intellectual property issues. Following the December 2003 Economic Partnership Commission meeting, the USG and GOT had agreed to expert-level meetings on this subject, but we proposed a DVC when it became apparent that relevant staff could not travel to Turkey. The dipnote response suggests instead that a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) meeting during the fall. Embassy endorses the concept of holding a TIFA, perhaps in conjunction with the next meeting of the EPC, and requests Department guidance on a response to the Turks on this. We note that MFA U/S Ziyal may raise this with U/S Larson in the EPC followup telephone call scheduled for May 24.

2. Begin Text Diplomatic Note 2004/CEGY/187022

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and acknowledging the receipt of the Latter's Note No: 455 dated 8 April 2003, has the honor to communicate the following:

Regarding the discussion of areas concerning the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement in the context of 2003 Economic Partnership Commission, the proposal of the Embassy to organize this discussion by means of a digital video conference on the premises of the Embassy, is considered to be inconvenient for the relevant Turkish authorities. Taking into account the difficulties concerning the traveling arrangements of relevant U.S. Government personnel to Turkey as stated in the Embassy's note, the Ministry proposes that this discussion take place during the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) meeting which may be convened in September or October 2004.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the United States of America the assurances of its highest consideration.

Ankara, 17 May 2004.  
Edelman